Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AEC-11 SCEM-02 SCI-06 ACDA-19 GAC-01

MC-02 MBFR-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11

RSR-01 /148 W

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R 121053 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8266
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 2902

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: TECH, US, IT

SUBJECT: NEW CHARGES FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES: ITALIAN

REACTION

REF: ROME 2208 (NOTAL) WEBBER/ GANELY TELCON 4/6/73

- 1. EMBOFF MET WITH FONOFF DIRECTOR OF ENERGY TO ELICIT ITALIAN VIEWS ON FAST MOVING URANIUM SITUATION IN WESTERN EUROPE.
- 2. FONOFF OFFICIAL STATED THAT GOI IS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT US PRICE INCREASES AND NEWLY ENVISIONED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS. GOI HAS FORMALLY TRANSMITTED ITS CONCERNS TO EURATOM SUPPLY AGENCY (OBOUSSIER).
- 3. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE GOI VIEWS THE US MOVE AS PROVIDING, HOPEFULLY, THE NECESSARY STIMULUOUS FOR WESTERN EUROPE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE NECESSITY TO PROVIDE ITS OWN URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITIES. ITALY'S ONLY OBJECT IS TO OBTAIN ENRICHED URANIUM AT RESONABLE PRICES AND UNDER CONFIDENTIAL

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REASONABLE CONDITIONS WITH GUARANTEED SUPPLY BUT AT THIS TIME DOES NOT WISH TO BE DRAWN INTO POTENTIAL CONTROVERSY OF PROS AND CONS OF DIFFUSION VERSUS CENTRIFUGE. AS FAR AS GOI CAN SEE, IN THE 1980'S EUROPEAN DEMAND FOR ENRICHMENT SERVICES WILL BE AT SUCH A LEVEL THAT THERE WILL BE ROOM FOR BOTH DIFFUSION AND CENTRIFUGE PLANTS.

- 3. SO FAR, GOI KNOWS ABOUT THE FRENCH URANIUM OFFER TO GERMANY ONLY THROUGH NEWSPAPER REPORTING. GOI HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED EITHER OFFICIALLY OR UNOFFICIALLY.
- 4. OFFICIAL WAS NOT AWARE THAT FRANCE MAY BROACH SUBJECT OF GERMAN URANIUM PURCHASE UNDER US/FRG OFFSET AGREEMENT AT EC COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 22. IF BROUGHT UP UNDER THE "ENRICHED URANIUM ITEM" HE COULD NOT PREDUCT HOW ITALY WOULD REACT (PROBABLY NEUTRAL).
- 5. OFFICIAL BELIEVES FRANCE HAS CAPABILITY TO SUPPLY THE AMOUNTS OF ENRICHED URANIUM OFFERED TO FRG. VOLPE

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts:

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 12 APR 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME02902

Document Number: 1973ROME02902 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a **Executive Order: RR** Errors: n/a Film Number: n/a From: ROME

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730441/aaaaijdy.tel

Line Count: 87 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Glassification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ROME 2208 (NOTAL) WEBBER/ GANE
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 26 JUL 2001

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Jul-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by boyleja>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN

Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980105 Subject: NEW CHARGES FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES: ITALIAN REACTION

TAGS: TECH, IT, US To: BONN **EC BRUSSELS** EUR LONDON PARIS SECSTATE WASHDC

THE HAGUE

Type: TE Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005